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Vol. 107, Number 14

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF ROMULUS

2 Sections, 16 Pages

75¢

### SOUND OFF



#### 729-4006

Sound Off 729-4006 is an opinon forum. A place for readers to comment or unwind. To chime in, please call 729-4006 after 5 p.m. on weekdays and anytime over the weekend. Please leave longer messages at our web site at www.micomnews.com. Callers must not slander the good citizens of Western Wayne County. Readers must be aware that Sound Off callers' opinions are not presented as facts. MCN neither shares nor endorses callers' opinions. We only provide a place for our readers to speak freely.

#### School wrongly convicted little kid for drawing soldiers

Suspending a little kid for drawing soldiers? Sounds like guilty until proven innocent.

Thanks to the many school districts in our country for their assistance in avoiding the cause, and for helping to promote the idiotic concept that control outweighs true education and con-

I hope they didn't hurt the kid's feelings too much.

I guess that was a lot easier than complimenting him and gearing him toward art classes so he would be happy and have more to look forward to.

### Clothes, not a public relations campaign, make the man

I received a brochure, printed and mailed out at taxpayers' expense, promoting Canton's new image as a city of leisure.

If leisure is such an important government function, wouldn't it have been cheaper to dress up all township employees in leisure suits?

# Residents should ideally provide values in a rat-free home

The ideal home?

INSIDE

No water damage, no radon gas, no rodents, and no government.

Morals and values should be provided by residents.

Thursday, April 5, 2001 © Copyright 2001 Michigan Community Newspapers

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HOME DELIVERY

**CLASSIFIED ADS** 

NEWSROOMS

# The state of the s

The new fulltime firefighters pose with members of the City Council. Front row left to right: Tim Rhoton, Pete Bergeron, Douglas Rowe, Scott Ladach and Jim Harrison, 2nd row, Mayor William Oakley, Councilman Donald Morris, Councilwoman Debbie Romak, Fire Dept. Coordinator Jerry Ladach, Michael Wojtyellco, and Councilman William Crova. Back row; Deputy Chief Bob Pecsenye, Dan Lorboshe, John Thiede, Fire Chief David Allison and Councilman Michael Prybyla. Photo by Gena Giannuzzi.

# 8 full-time firefighters hired

By GENA GIANNUZZI MCN Special Writer

At an April 2nd ceremony inside Romulus City Council Chambers, the first eight full-time city firefighters were hired. Until now, the Romulus Fire Department has been solely run by volunteer firemen who were paid on a per fire run basis. The drawback to a volunteer run fire department is that it is hard to find enough firefighters when they are needed.

"It was hard for the personnel to come out during the day because of their regular paid jobs," said Fire Chief Allison. "We need a minimum of 2 – 4 people for a rescue, and a minimum of 4 people for a fire. We would have to take people from 2 stations to cover a fire because we didn't have enough at one station."

Talking about the benefits of having eight full time firefighters Allison added, "It won't cover all the problems but it is a start. There is going to be coverage during the day which is our weakness right now. Response time will be cut in half. It's a step to the fu-

Deputy Fire Chief Bob Pecsenye attributed the need for full-time firefighters to an increase in the number of people moving to Romulus. "The city is growing up," he said.

"As the city grows we'll have to add more on."

The new full-time firemen left various jobs; including being a cement truck driver, a paramedic, a welder, and an airline employee.

Some took pay reductions to become a full-time firefighter because it was something they really wanted to do. All are Romulus residents.

Scott Ladach, a 10 year volunteer with the department, decided to walk in his father's foot steps. "I always looked up to him, and the job that he did," he said about his father, Jerry Ladach.

Jerry Ladach celebrated his 30th year with the Romulus Fire Department on April 2nd, the same day that his son Scott was hired in as one of the first 8 full time fire fighters. Scott's paternal grandfather was an auxillary fire-fighter for Detroit, making him a 3rd generation firefighter. Aaron Ladach, Scott's 9 year old son, knows everything about the equipment on a fire truck, and wants to be a firefighter when he grows up too.

Sylvia Ladach, Scott's mother, said, "I'm very proud of my son, and proud of my husband. Today is really a special day."

Another firefighter, Michael Wojtyklko was encouraged to become a firefighter by his brother, and has been a volunteer firefighter for 9 years. He said about working for the fire department, "There is a new challenge everyday. I enjoy doing it. I love serving the city."

Douglas Rowe, a paramedic for 10 years, has been a Romulus volunteer firefighter for 3 years. "I always respected the field. When the opportunity came to volunteer for the city, I thought I would give back to the community." Happy

about being hired full time Rowe included, "I'll be able to devote more of my time to the city. I'm going to try my best. Hopefully I won't let anybody down."

Two years volunteer, Jim Harrrison, commented, "I just always wanted to do it (firefighting) since I was a kid. I worked full time at Northwest airlines, and put myself through school. I want to make a career out of being a fireman. I've always liked the action." Harrison got an associates degree in Fire Science at School Craft College.

There are still 28 volunteer firefighters with the Romulus Fire Department, but Chief Allison says they need more, but it is hard to find people able to put the time in to achieve the required 240 hours of training necessary to become a firefighter.

several city officials were present to welcome this new step in Romulus' progress, including Mayor Bill Oakley, who summed the occasion up by saying, "This is the beginning of our fire department. From this we can build a foundation."

#### Project Health visits April 19

Project Health Living is coming to the Romulus Recreation Center on April 19. Project Healthy Living offers a wide array of helpful information from hearing screenings to medication counseling.

Located at 36515 Bibbins, the Recreation Center will be open from 10-6 for anyone interested in partaking in the free services.

ODY WHO EVER GAVE BEST REGRETTED IT

### Disaster a simulation Romulus prepares for real thing

By GENA GIANNUZŽI MCN Special Writer

On March 21st Romulus Fire Fighters received hands on training to combat a hazardous materials disaster if one should occur on Romulus Roads. The training included a simulated disaster with an actual tanker tipped over on top of a car. Both new and veteran Fire Fighters were present at the hazardous materials class.

Providing the truck and equipment were J & M Towing, one of only two companies in the state of Michigan trained in uprighting Hazmat (short for hazardous materials) tankers, using airbags. J & M Towing works in conjunction with the Fire Departments and emergency management teams when there is an accident involving hazardous materials.

Firefighters learned recognition of hazardous materials, procedures to confine a spill from going into waterways or sewers, how to rescue someone involved in an accident involving hazardous materials, how to remove a contaminant from an injured individual so they can be transported to the hospital, and how to decontaminate personnel.

"The training helps all fire fighters to control the spill, and evacuate the area until the Hazmat team can assemble. We can protect our city until an advance team comes in. We can protect our land and save lives before anything happens. Instead of just having two guys trained we are all trained now," said Lt. John Thiede of the Romulus Fire Department.

Mark Hammond, instructor for the Michigan Firefighters Training Council said, "There is a regular need for hazardous material training. There are 2 to 3 events a month in Wayne County. The accidents range from larger scale to smaller scale. Some are severe, some aren't. It ranges from a large tanker falling over to a drum falling off of a truck." Hammond continued, "All Firefighters have to have hazardous materials training, but this was more advanced training than the average fire department would get. Romulus is getting a little more than the average community." Hammond, who monitors all spills in Wayne County, added, "Romulus is more prepared than many other departments."

"When it (the accident) gets too big, they need Hazmat Teams. There are ½ mile wide downwind evacuations sometimes, such as with chlorine spills. Local resources are overwhelmed with that. The main thing that the fire department learns through the training is that they cannot handle it on their own. They need hazardous materials experts," said Hammond

### Pool groundbreaking set for April 9

The Romulus School District will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the new swimming pool complex. The ceremony will be held on Monday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Senior High Atrium.

The swimming pool complex will be built onto the south side of the high school gym and feature two separate swimming pools. There will be a competitive pool, a training pool, and locker rooms necessary to meet a variety of community needs.

Representatives from Kingscott Associates, the architect, and Barton Malow, the construction manager, have completed plans and concluded the bidding process.

The school district has purchased a parcel of land south of the high school to provide additional space for the drive that circles the school. The remainder of this property will provide additional athletic fields for physical education classes.



Simulated hazardous materials accident shows a tanker rolled over on a car.

### Rep. Rivers inspires students

Congresswoman Lynn Rivers (D-Ann Arbor) recently paid a visit to the Romulus-Van Buren Adult Education Program. Program Coordinator Sharman Spieser indicated that Rivers was able to meet with all the daytime GED and High School Completion classes.

Rep. Rivers said she had been in the same position as the students she was now talking to. At 17, Rivers had become pregnant and married her high school sweetheart. However, she was able to put herself through college and eventually earn a law degree, even though she was busy raising three young childfren.

In a letter drafted by the students to Rivers, they expressed their thanks and admiration for the congresswoman.

"Hearing about your experiences and seeing your success," said the letter, "was an inspiration to everyone in the program. Many in our group feel that your early life story is one very similar to ours. As we learned, there were many obstacles that you have maneuvered around in your life and we can plainly see how far you have come, despite these obstacles. This has motivated may of us to keep working around our obstacles."

Visit us at...

www.micomnews.com

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers enjoys time with adult education students. First row (I to r), Rivers, Marcia Clark, Sharman Spieser, Casandra Mehlow. 2nd row, Sheila Wilson, Latherisa Vaughn, Rebecca Per (teacher) and Brandon Maciel.

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### **NEWS FROM THE CITY OF INKSTER**

# Foundation plans to 'roast' Commissioner Beard, Hicks



By THEOLA JONES

MCN Special Writer

Lehigh Street, is a meeting place

for local senior citizens where

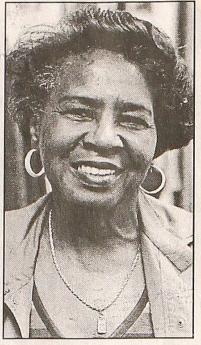
they enjoy a wide range of recre-

June Patterson, Activities Coor-

ational activities.

The Inkster Senior Center, on

Kay Beard



dinator, plans the activities which

include monthly shopping trips,

excursions to points of interest,

fun games and crafts. Commodi-

ties also are distributed from the

Everything wears out in time,

and the time has almost arrived

for the center's computer to print

Leanna Hicks

Senior Center is in need of a computer

say, "see yah."

# Program to raise funds for scholarship

By TOM MOORADIAN MCN Staff Writer

Two notable Inkster personalities will be 'roasted and toasted' for a good cause next month.

Kay Beard, vice chairperson of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, and Leanna Hicks, historian-journalist who is president emeritus of the Inkster Library and Historical Commission, are the center attractions for the third annual Khamalaw H. White Foundation's scholarship ban-

The program will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, May 12, at the Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 N. Merriman Road, in Westland, Tickets are \$30 per person. Proceeds fund scholar-

its last printed words. In other

words, the computer is about to

computer would be a welcome gift

there is a computer that someone

wants to donate to a worthy group.

to the Inkster Senior Center.

A new computer or an updated

Hopefully, somewhere out

ships for local graduating senior high school students.

'We would like everyone in our community and surrounding cities to join us in paying a tribute to two outstanding women who have helped improve the quality of life of so many in our communities," said Dr. Terrel LeCesne, president of the Khamalaw H. White Foundation. "Of course, friendly barbs also will be the order of the day."

Khamalaw H. White, an educator and coach, retired from the Inkster School District after 35 vears in the district. An outstanding track coach who was selected by his peers to the Michigan High School Track & Field's Hall of Fame. He also served the school district as an athletic director for more than two decades and, as a

If there is, please deliver it to

Here's hoping that a big-heart-

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ed donor will read this and say,

or if you know of someone who

has one and is willing to donate it,

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"Hey, I can do this."

please call 313-561-2382.

dedicated teacher, touched the lives of thousands of children before he retired.

Mr. White recently passed away. His former students, friends, and colleagues organized the foundation as a living tribute to the educator, and the Foundation has managed to provide scholarships to young athletes who may otherwise not have the financial

dors for the above item.

resources to go on to college.

For ticket information please call 313-562-6805; 734-722-3426; or 734-729-8538. Tickets also may be secured by mail by writing name, address and telephone number and mailing the information, with a check made out to the Khamalaw H. White Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 957, Inkster, Mich. 48141-2709.

### CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS BID 00/01-46

SIX TWO WHEEL DRIVE ONE-HALF TON PICK-UP TRUCKS

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified ven-

- Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Kristian Moe, Purchasing/Computer Services Director, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI or by calling (734) 942-7564.
- Bids must be submitted in sealed evelopes and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 p.m., April 17, 2001. At that time said bids would be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE MARKED:

CITY CLERK CITY OF ROMULUS, MICHIGAN

BID 00/01-46 SIX TWO WHEEL DRIVE ONE-HALF TON PICK-UP TRUCKS

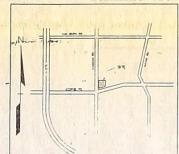
> 11111 WAYNE ROAD ROMULUS, MI 48174-1472

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: April 5, 2001

### CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING**

Please be advised, that the City of Romulus Planning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held Monday, April 16, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to consider PC-2001-002, a request from Ron Jona & Associates for Special Use Land Approval for a 7-11 Convenience Store with a Citgo Gasoline Station to be located on the northeast corner of Ecorse and Hannan Roads [on the southwest 1.54± acres of DP# 026 99 0015 000] located in a C-3 (Highway Service) zoned district.



LOCATION MAP

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, April 16, 2001 and should be addressed to Bradley Raymond, Director, Building, Safety and Engineering Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 5, 2001

### 'Gift of love'

Members of the Michigan Metro Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., recently made their annual visit to the Wayne County Family Center, in Westland. Members donated gift bags filled with toiletries which were distributed to each of the families. This visit is coordinated by the "Enhance the Status of Women" committee of Top Ladies. The committee chair, Lady Tommie Butler, is pictured above with Chapter President, Lady Janet M. Carter. They are making one of their 'Gift of Love' deliveries.





#### TYLER EDWARD SMITH

Born: December 13, 2000 at **Proud Parents** Robert (Bob) & Karen Smith of Wayne Grand Parents: Greg & Debble Salley of Wayne Bob & Linda Smith of Mahomet, I Great Grand Parents: Wade & Martha Warner Hopkinsville, KY and Lillian Salley of Westland

EMILY JADE TWITCHELL Born: January 20, 2001 at 8 lbs., 8 az

Proud Parents: Derek & Lara Twitchell of Huntington Beach, CA (Formerly of Romulus) Grand Parents: Dale & Pat Twitchell of Belleville Great Grand Parents:

SAMANTHA ROSE FOSTER

Born: February 2, 2001 at Proud Parents: Kyle Foster & Amber Damell of New Boston Bla Sister: Alyssa Courtney Foster Grand Parents:

Dean & Marilyn Knisely of Romulus

Ralph & Kathy VanValkenburg of Belleville

# This Weeks Weeks **FORD F-250**



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\$6,995 32115 MICHIGAN AVE. (734)

WAYNE DISPOSAL, INC DRAFT HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE MAJOR MODIFICATION. MID 048 090 633

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) hereby gives notice of their intent to issue a state hazardous operating license major modification pursuant to Part 111, Hazardous Waste Management, of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Act 451) to Wayne Disposal, Inc. (WDI). In August 1999, WDI submitted an application to MDEQ for an operating license major modification.

WDI operates hazardous waste and polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) landfill disposal facility at their site located at 49350 North I-94 Service Drive in Belleville, Michigan (the facility). The proposed major modification is for a revised landfill design, which would allow the use of additional capacity that was previously authorized in the facility's Part 111 operating license issued April 14, 1997, and extension of the operating license expiration date to April 14, 2007. In addition, the U.S. EPA is currently reviewing a similar proposal for the disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) waste at the WDI facility pursuant to the Federal Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). U.S. EPA will issue a public notice at a later date.

The MDEQ proposes to issue the operating license major modification. The MDEQ believes they have conducted a thorough review of the application, and request public comment on the draft operating license major modification. The public comment period on the draft documents will begin on April 5, 2001 and end on June 4, 2001. A public hearing is scheduled for May 23, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Belleville High School located at 501 West Columbia in Belleville, Michigan. Commenters at the public hearing should register by 7:30 p.m. and submit two written copies of their comments to the MDEQ at the hearing, if possible. The public hearing location is accessible to disabled persons. To request accommodations for the deaf or copies of information in Braille, please contact Ms. Julie Blanchard at 517-373-9875, at least two weeks prior to the hearing

The MDEQ will consider and respond to all significant public comments received during the public comment period, including any comments received during the public hearing. After a final decision is made on the draft operating license major modification, the MDEQ will issue a written responsiveness summary, which responds to significant comments made during the public comment period and public hearing, and summarizes the changes to the draft license and the reason for each change.

The administrative record for the draft Part 111 operating license major modification is on file at the MDEQ Waste Management Division Office located on the first floor of the John A. Hannah Building in Lansing, Michigan (contact Mr. Peter Quackenbush at 517-373-7397). Copies of the draft Part 111 operating license major modification and fact sheet are also available for review at the MDEQ Southeast Michigan District Office, located at 38980 Seven Mile Road in Livonia, Michigan (contact Mr. Michael Busse at 313-953-1403); and the VanBuren Township Hall, located at 46425 Tyler Road, in Belleville, Michigan (contact Brian Ballard at 734-699-8926), and at the Fred C. Fischer Library located at 167 Fourth Street, in Belleville, Michigan (contact Ms. Deborah Green at 734-699-3291).

Comments and requests regarding the draft Part 111 operating license major modification, requests to be placed on the facility mailing list, and requests for information, including request for copies of the major modification and fact sheet should be sent to Mr. Peter Quackenbush at the MDEQ's Lansing address given below. Written comments concerning the major modification should include the name and address of the writer, a concise statement of the basis for the comments, and the supporting facts upon which the comments are

> Mr. Peter Quackenbush Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 30241 Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741

#### **NOVI EXPO CENTER**

Thursday, April 5, 2pm-10pm Friday, April 6, 2pm-10pm Saturday, April 7, 10am-10pm Sunday, April 8, 10am-7pm

Think spring!

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Garden marketplace offering plants, flowers. garden tools and outdoor accessories

Demonstrations on remodeling, home repair and decorating

■ Parade of Homes

■ Treasure Chest contest

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### NEWS FROM THE CITY OF WAYNE



### Rotary's newest recruit

Lawrene Bishop (center) became the newest member of the Wayne Rotary when she was installed by Assistant District Governor David Carpenter at the club's weekly meeting at the Wayne Community Center. Lawrene, who is the manager of the Bank One at Michigan Ave. and Wayne Road, joined the club on March 27. Lawrene is presently serving as the District Chairperson for Rotary Youth Exchange. Pictured above, from left to right, are Lois VanStipdonk, Rotary President, Bishop, and Carpenter, assistant District Governor.

# Former Wayne resident is honored by Canton

Frank McMurray, one of the catalysts who helped build the Wayne Jaycees and was the "Jaycee of the Year" in 1969, was honored last week by the Canton community.

McMurray, a Wayne Memorial graduate, was installed into Canton's Hall of Fame. He joins such notable past and present Canton dignitaries as John Flodin, Jake and Phil Dingeldey, James Kosteva, Bruce Patterson, John Hoben, Loren and Terry Bennett - all of whom have been installed in the coveted "Hall".

"I am honored and grateful for this recognition," McMurray told the huge gathering.

The 62-year-old McMurray. whose brother Ed is a community activist in Wayne, moved to Wayne in 1947 and worked for Ford Motor Company from 1959-1964 before he decided to go into the insurance business. He has been an independent contractor for State Farm Insurance Company since



Frank A. McMurray

The tireless Frank McMurray has an incredibly long list of achievements and accomplishments. He helped coordinate a summer program through the YMCA for underprivileged children at Galimore School and was very much involved in organizing senior citizens' programs in the area. He helped develop a master plan for maintenance of parks and

the development of two softball field at Griffin Park

McMurray is a charter member of Canton's Kiwanis Club and is also a member of the Rotary. He served on the Citizens Committee to study the Summit and was one of the prime promoters of the Gene "Santa" Reeves Christmas

He also served as a delegate to the 1985 White House Conference on Small Business and helped plan the 1981 State of Michigan Small Business Conference.

Among other prominent local and Canton dignitaries who have been installed in the Hall of Fame are Bart Berg, Flossie Tonda, Kay Baldrica, Richard Palmer, Larry Miller, Ken Gruebel, Wallace Baker, James Gillig, Melissa McLaughlin, Dave Artley, Cathy Johnson, Joan Palmer, Roy Schulz, Bob Card, Tillie Schulz, Bob Ruete, Dorothy West, Phil LaJoy, Bob Padget, John Schwartz and Louis

# Toyota tags local teacher for unique opportunity

long to find the person they wanted for one of their unique pro-

The Japanese auto manufacturer turned to the Wayne-Westland schools.

And there was only one word that explained James Schirmer's reaction when he learned of this extraordinary opportunity that the Japanese auto manufacturer was offering him..

'Wow!" he said.

William D. Ford Career/Technical Center Automotive Technology instructor James Schirmer has been selected to participate in the coveted Toyota International Teacher Program.

In June, Schirmer will pack up his bags and travel to Japan to learn about the country's history, values, and education system, as well as its approach to issues such

Toyota didn't have to look far or as technology and the environ-

"We believe secondary school teachers greatly benefit from this unique exchange and expand their curriculum through international study," said James Press, executive vice president of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S. A., Inc.

Schirmer will join 49 other teachers from California, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, West Virginia and Michigan; all states that will be represented in the program. In all of these states, Toyota Motors operates major facilities and offers the all-expense paid travel and study program.

Schirmer and the others will visit primary and secondary schools, attend lectures with Japan historians, participate in traditional arts activities, visit recycling projects and areas of environmental protection and be in-

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OPTIONS SUCH AS FIREPLACE, SKYLIGHTS, AND MORE

The group also will visit cities in Japan.

troduced to Japanese industries like automobiles and textiles.

The group also will visit cities in Japan including Tokyo, Toyota City and Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. Upon their return from Japan in early July, participants will immediately submit a revised

Impact Plan detailing how they plan to share their recent experience with students, colleagues and the local media.

"I look forward to visiting Japan and especially spending time in Toyota City. I should be able to bring back some great sto-

Center Principal Bill Richardson agrees that Schirmer's experience aboard will be very rewarding to him and his students as well as the Tech Center.

'Jim really deserves this honor," said Richardson. "He has

ries and ideas for helping my stu-

dents become better automotive

William D. Ford Career Tech

technicians," Schirmer said.

been a hard-working, dedicated auto teacher most of his adult life and career.

"Last year he was honored by Ford Motor Company with a summer fellowship to work in the Dearborn Research facility. He has an extremely inquisitive mind and an uncanny ability to excite his students. We're all proud of

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### "Hot Parenting Ideas" is the

theme of a program that is being offered by the Family Resource

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& AFFORDABLE HOMES

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IS- IN WAYNE COUNTY FROM

eight weeks from 10 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., beginning May 4.

Registration is \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. To register please call 734-595-2279 or mail checks to Family Resource Center, 33800 Grand Traverse, Westland, Mich. 48186.



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DISCOUNT & REBATE 10,000 15,000 18,000 Great West Van 9,000 6,000

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### Public school shootings, bomb threats should be priority one

It is trying times for public education. If the pressures of teaching students to score sponsib higher on their MEAPS and working within the framework of restricted budgets were not enough, now administrators and teachers must deal with the increasingly frequent occurrence of bomb threats.

Van Buren Schools, like their next-door neighbor, Lincoln Schools, has had to deal with more than their fair share the past couple of weeks. In one week alone, Van Buren had five bomb threats called in from South Middle School and one from Belleville High School.

Ironically, the Belleville High School threat was not called in by a disgruntled student, but allegedly instead, by teacher and Assistant Band Director Scott Rikkers.

One can seemingly understand a student's motive. Like in the case of the 12year-old boy and 14-year-old girl that were arrested for the South Middle School bomb threats, the suspects, according to Belleville Police Chief Paul Davis, "just wanted to do it to harass the school and cause an inconvenience."

In fact one of the suspects was allegedly upset because they had been suspended for threatening a teacher. Now they will spend time in the Wayne County Youth Home where they will be preparing for a possible four-year sentence.

Like I write, most of us can understand how misguided teens might think bomb threats could be a way to get even. However, very few of us can understand how a so-

sponsible adult could do the same.

you might expect, on the advice of his attor-

ney, Rikkers is not talking. From information pieced together by police, the threat was received by the high school's answering machine at 6:30 a.m. in the morning. A secretary retrieving the previous night's messages heard the harrowing threat and notified

Mike's

Mike

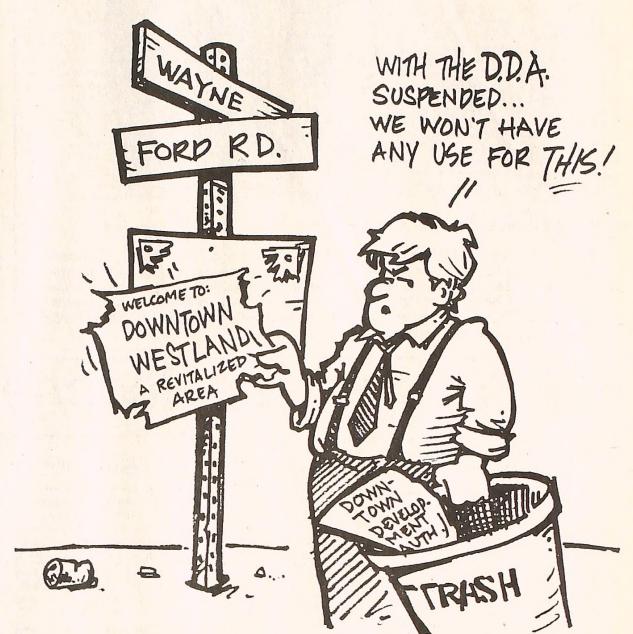
Wilcox

musings

the principal. The call was traced to a cell phone allegedly used by Rikkers'. Additionally, school employees think they recognized Rikkers' voice on the answering machine. In any event, Rikkers was arrested, freed on \$10,000 bond and placed on administrative leave pending a school district investi-

Hopefully a reasonable explanation will eventually prove Rikkers' innocence. It is just too bizarre to believe a teacher would commit such a crime.

In the meantime, we as a society must find solutions to the current round of school shootings and bomb threats that now seem to be frequent occurrences at many schools. These distractions, extremely serious in nature, must be priority number one for all school boards.



### It's not the meat, it's the emotion

Across the country, politicians and candidates for public office spend millions of dollars on research and polling to determine what tactics and issues to use to persuade voters to support them.

Invariably, the answer is to arouse emotions as the basis for opinions held by the voters.

cles that it is extremely difficult to dissuade a person from a point of view that he has adopted on an emotional basis. Factual informational reaction.

This is partly the fault of the educational system. In the last several decades, school curriculum focuses more on value judgments on various issues than on presenting all the facts and letting the student arrive at his or her own conclusion.

In order to analyze "facts" and arrive at a valid conclusion, a logical thought process must be used. This can be taught, but seldom is. When this writer attended public high school (in Oregon) one semester of logic was a required course. Now days, logic is seldom found even as an elective at the college level.

Consequently, politicians tend



It is an axiom in political cirato present only the "facts" that will support their stand on selected issues. If there are no facts to stir the emotions in his favor, the politician will often manufacture tion rarely does the job unless it them. One writer observed, "The evokes an equal or stronger emo-problem is not what we know, but what we know that isn't so.

When facts (that cannot be contradicted) are brought out by another, the typical response is to make personal attacks on the "messenger" to try to destroy his credibility.

This tactic has been elevated to the status of an art in the nation's capital, but is used at all levels by politicians. It has even been given a name, "The politics of personal

We have several examples of the above tactics in local politicians' fight against a hazardous waste injection well in Romulus.

One of the opponents' themes in that there is no "need" for the well because alternative methods are not running at full capacity. What they didn't tell us was the "alternatives" are dumping the waste into the water system in the Detroit River as opposed to sealing it 4,000 feet below the water system, as the well would do.

Another ploy was to dramatize problems of a facility in Texas that used an injection well claiming all kinds of genetic horrors caused by it (without any proof). What they didn't tell us was that it was the surface operation (fuel blending) that caused what problems the facility did have, not the well itself.

They then claimed similar problems could be expected from the Romulus well. Again, they didn't tell us that the closest parallel to that Texas operation is Michigan Recovery, which for years has been processing and recycling solvents in a surface operation and then dumping wastes in the sewer.

As a result of these (and other misleading arguments) the Romulus City Council has been intimidated into spending over \$1 million dollars fighting a waste disposal method that arguably is more friendly to the environment than existing methods, and would lower costs to waste generators and ultimately to the public that buys their products.

### **New law makes state Big Daddy**

Are you fit to have a baby? In the past, there was no way of

knowing. You had a child, did your best, and prayed.

But since March 7, Michigan's caring state government will end all doubts of parental fitness by declaring in advance if you will be a fit or unfit parent.

Family Independent Agency will gather information on about 144,000 newborns per year from the Department of Community Health and search for matches weekly against its own database of 34,000 parents whose [parental] rights have been terminated.'

So if you're like Keri Webb, a deaf woman, Protective Services can follow you to the maternity ward and snatch your baby from

In July 1992, Protective Services snatched Gerald, Webb's baby boy from her, two days after he was born, on a complaint by Keri's stepmother, Diane Knickerbocker.

Protective Services found Knickerbocker a credible source. I can't speak for you, but I wouldn't rely on a woman who had two of her own children taken away after she microwaved her pet dog and tried to shake-and-bake her pet cat. But who am I to judge?

Knickerbocker alleged that Gerald Webb, Keri's deaf husband, had molested the couple's daughter, Angie, when she was three.

Before snatching Baby Gerald, Protective Services questioned the deaf couple about the allega-

Perhaps in a better world, Protective Services would have complied with the Civil Rights Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act and brought an interpreter to signal the questions and answers in American Sign Language and I'm sure social workers will do that in heaven. In this world, neither the social workers' questions nor the Webbs' answers were translated to a language that a deaf person could be expected to understand.

Too bad, because, according to Keri's lawyer, all Keri tried to say was: "We just want to take our baby home and be left alone.

Keri got neither wish. The baby was adopted out to another home and the Webbs weren't left alone until they moved to Canada.

Because Gerald was adopted out, the Webbs can't get him back: social workers have good faith immunity, the Webbs can't sue them (though they have tried).

All they could do is move across the border. With Michigan's social workers recently empowered to snatch ba-

According to an April 2 article bies from the maternity ward and in the Detroit Free Press, "The recently empowered to bring armed guards along, I expect that many Michiganders will follow the Webbs to Canada.

How, you may ask, did the state's social workers obtain totalitarian powers?

By creating a crisis and demanding permanent emergency powers to permanently fight the

To justify delivery room snatches, the state conjured up a child abuse crisis. Don't ask me what constitutes child abuse these days. Making kids do homework? Not buying them cell phones? — I don't know.

But I do know, from a Wall Street Journal article that I quoted in another column, that more children raised by the state or by state-assigned foster parents end up behind bars, on welfare, or on drugs than children raised by their parents.

Besides being damned by numbers, the government's barbarity as a substitute parent was vouched for by Teresa Summers. In a story we ran last year, Teresa recounted the frequent sexual abuse she and her step-sisters exterienced in foster care.

'The whole idea here is prevention," said Mark Jasonowicz, deputy director of the state Family Independence Agency, told the

I wouldn't rely on a woman who had two of her own children taken away after she microwaved her pet dog and tried to shake-and-bake her pet cat.

Freep. "We want to identify those parents who have been abusive in the past and try to head off any possible incidents of future abuse.'

If eliminating the most child abuse is the goal, the logical step would be to return child-rearing to parents. Granted that a few parents will hurt their kids, almost all parents love their kids. As for the state, it loves power, not kids, and to put it gently, power and children's welfare rarely complement each other.

One only has to spend time with home-schooled kids to see the superiority of parent-raised children to even state-influenced ones, a reminder of how things used to be in Eisenhower America. A taste of how things are in a limited-government country like Switzerland.

But these comments are only my thoughts and questions. If you don't like them, the state of Michigan has a question you might like better: "Are you fit to have a ba-



The Belleville Enterprise The Canton Eagle

The Inkster Ledger Star The Romulus Roman

The Wayne Eagle

· The Westland Eagle

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### LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

### Police boycott cop killer's friends

To the editor:

At the recent National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) conference, the delegation in attendance voted unanimously to begin a boycott of persons, products and companies associated with the supporting of convicted cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal.

In case you don't know, he was convicted in the 1981 killing of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner under overwhelming evidence. The act was an especially brutal and sadistic murder that still haunts the family, friends and coworkers of Officer Faulkner (The New York Shields presented Officer Faulkner's family with a Medal of Valor at their 1999 Police Memorial Breakfast). Convict Abu-Jamal has written a book, "Live from Death Row," and attempted to place himself in a celebrity status as a result of his criminal behavior.

Others have supported his pathetic attempt to gain stardom and freedom, all the while spitting in the face of Officer Faulkner, his family and every single law enforcement officer in the United States.

formal boycotting of the following: 1. Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Products (donators to a defense fund for the killer).

2. Actor Paul Newman, and his products (an outspoken supporter of the killer).

3. Actress Susan Sarandon (supporter of this convicted killer). 4. Filmmakers Spike Lee, Oliv-

er Stone and John Landis (supporters of the killer). 5. Writers Norman Mailer and

Joyce Carol Oates (supporters of the killer).

6. Supermodel Naomi Campbell (supporter of the killer).

7. Musicians Sting, David Byrne and Michael Stipe of REM, (supporters of the killer).

8. The Beastie Boys who are performing "free" benefit concerts for the killer's defense fund. One of their "benefit concerts" scheduled for Baltimore, MD had to be canceled when Baltimore police officers refused to work the overtime shifts for security at the concert.

As you may not know, a tape recorded statement made by this heinous convicted killer, was

The F. O. P. has announced the played at the graduation commencement ceremony of Evergreen State College in the state of Washington in June 1999. This resulted in over 800 graduates walking out and another two dozen turning their backs during the killer's three minute diatribe of

The F.O.P's position is getting widespread coverage in the media, as well it should. The members of the New York Shields stand with our fellow brothers across this country in strongly supporting this boycott and honoring the memory of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner.

We urge you to participate in this boycott and request that you pass this e-mail on to your coworkers, partners, family and friends. We must stand together against this brutal murderer.

Please do your part and pass this important message along to your friends. Call your local grocer and tell them about Ben & Jerry's support of a cop killer.

R. Ashby

SAPOFC

#### **OBITUARIES**

LEWIS, BRUCE, 45 of Westland, born in Ypsilanti to Tommy and Vada Lewis, passed away February 23. He leaves to cherish his memory daughter Teresa Ginae; her mother Ramona; his father Tommy Lewis; siblings Bettye, Barbara, and Kenny; friends Fentrice Hayes; family and friends. Services were held at Penn Funeral Home with Rev. Ronald Springer officiating.

LITTLES, WILLSIE "Nookie," 78 of Inkster, born in Monessen, PA to Jack and Aretta Littles, passed away February 26. She received her cosmetology license in 1946 and has "done hair" for nearly 60 years and was a member of the PHA Easter Stars. Arrangements made by Penn Funeral Home with services were held at Smith Chapel AME Church.

LOFTON, ANNIE LEE, 71 of Inkster, born in Toomsuba, MS to Goe and Annie Jones, passed away March 2. She was a faithful evangelist and teacher in all facets of the ministry. She leaves to cherish her memory sisters Emma, Lucille, and Sue Bell; children Regina, Patricia, Craig, Holly, Donald and Colleen; nineteen grandchildren; fourteen greatgrandchildren; family and friends. Arrangements made by Penn Funeral Home with services held at Greater Grace Temple in Taylor.

McCRORY, HAROLD E., 70 of Romulus, passed away March 20. Loving husband of Joyce McCrory. Beloved father of Fred McCrory of Livonia; Timothy McCrory of Wayne; Ronald McCrory of Buffton, OH; Mike (McCrory) of Taylor; and Lillian Bopp of Gladstone. Dear brother of Maxine (J.R.) Jackson of Pickett, AR and half brother of Billy Kowens of St. Louis, MO. Also survived by eleven grandchildren and two greatgrandchildren. Funeral services were held at Crane Funeral Home with Rev. Donald Gregory officiating. Interment followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

OGLE, EMILY EVELYN, 89 of Westland, passed away March 23. Dear wife of the late Carl Ogle. Loving mother of Carl (Theresa) Ogle and the late Kenneth Ogle. Dear grandmother of three, step-grandmother of three, great-grandmother of ten, and great-great grandmother of one. Funeral services were held at Uht Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Schultz officiating. Interment followed at Southern Michigan Services, Livonia.

PATTON, TERESA, 36 of Inkster, born in Wayne to Bob and Joann Patton, passed away February 20. She received an MBA in Human Resources Management and Corporate Strategy in 1992. She leaves to mourn her parents Bob and Joann Patton; sister Tamanee; brother Clarence Robert III; family and friends. Arrangements by Penn Funeral Home with services held Beulah Baptist Church.

PENNINGTON, SOLOMON, 87 of Inkster, born to Lewis and Pheobe Pennington in Boling Broke, GA, passed away March 8. He served in World War II and loved to fish and hunt. He leaves to mourn his children Joseph, James, Joyce, and Belinda; sister Laura; ten grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; his special friend Lillie; family and friends. Arrangements made by Penn Funeral Home with services held at New Birth Baptist Church.

REHER, MICHAEL BRUCE, 27 of Westland, passed away March 23. Dear son of Michael Reher and the late Connie Lee (Ellis) Reher. Loving father of Michael Lee Reher and Andrew Michael Reher. Beloved brother of Matthew Reher and Angela Sablani. Dear grandson of Bruce Ellis of Westland. Funeral services were held at Uht Funeral Home with Rev. Bob McDonald officiating. Interment followed at Parkview Memorial Cemetery, Livonia.

THOMASON, ELMER D., 81 of St. Helen, MI (formerly of Belleville), passed away March 18. Dear father of Gale (Virginia) Thomason of Waterford; Alfred (June) Thomason of Wayne; Alfreda Thomason of Belleville; Virginia Abraham of Canada; and Phyllis Abraham of Illinois. Loving grandfather of James Thomason. Preceded in death by wife Beulah, son James, two brothers, and one sister. He was a member of the American Legion #416 in St. Helen, and the Allen Park V.F.W. He also served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII. Funeral services were held at David C. Brown Funeral Home with Rev. Robert J. White officiating. Interment followed at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.

THOMPSON, SUE, 70 of Belleville, passed away March 14 in Lakeland, FL. Beloved wife of John T. Thompson. Dear mother of John T. (Janet) Thompson of Dexter; Mary Kay Thompson of Fenton; Betty S. (Richard) Schroeder of Manitou Beach, MI; and Beth (Michael) Kummeth of Mishawaka, Indiana. Dear daughter of the late Raymond and Louise (VanEpps) VanSickle. Dear sister of Jean (Don) Ferguson of Ypsilanti and Thomas VanSickle of Bradenton, Florida. She is also survived by six grandchildren. Preceded in death by daughter Cheryl Thompson. She was a member of Belleville First United Methodist Church and the Mayflower Society. She also enjoyed volunteering at Beyer Hospital. She was employed by Van Buren Public Schools Food Service. Funeral services were held at David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfall, III officiating. Interment followed at Hillside Cemetery, Belleville. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to Karmanos Cancer Institute.

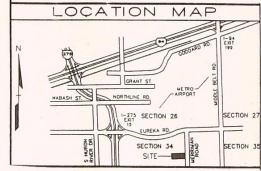
TURNER, THOMAS A., 72, a retired quality control supervisor, of Belleville, formerly of Glennie, MI, passed away Wednesday March 28, 2001 at Oakwood Hospital, Wayne. He was born on April 29, 1928 in Palmer, Tennessee to Henry and Flora (Land) Turner. he married Inez Carpenter who preceded him in death in 1998, and a sister, Inalee Turner. He is survived by his daughter, Linda (Carl) Sweeney of Belleville, MI; sons Gary (Julie) Turner of Howard City, MI and Larry Turner of Livonia, MI; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Visitation was held March 30 at Frizzell Funeral Home in Hale, MI. Services were held March 31 at the Funeral Home with Pastor Robert King officiating. Interment followed at the Glennie Cemetery.

VENEGAR, FREDRICK, 56 of INkster, born in Wayne to Jean and Vera Venegar, passed away March 3. He served eighteen months in the Korean War. He leaves behind to cherish his memory wife Rosemary; brothers Richard & Julius; six sisters; family and friends. Arrangements made by Penn Funeral Home with services held at Smith Chapel AME Church.



### CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised, that the City of Romulus Planning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held Monday, April 16, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to consider PC-2001-008, a request from Mark T. Morris for Special Use Land Approval to build a cellular tower to be located at 15750 Merriman Road located in a RC (Regional Center) zoned district.



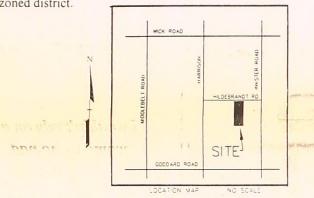
All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, April 16, 2001 and should be addressed to Bradley Raymond, Director, Building, Safety and Engineering Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 5, 2001

### CITY OF ROMULUS PLANNING COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING**

Please be advised, that the City of Romulus Planning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held Monday, April 16, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485. The purpose of the meeting is to consider PC-2001-010, a request from Gary Weinberger - Swift Transportation for Special Use Land Approval for a truck terminal to be located on 20± acres on the south side of Hildebrandt between Harrison and Inkster Roads [DP# 052 99 0026 701] located in an MT-2 (Industrial Transportation 2)



All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be given an opportunity to comment on said request. Written comments may be submitted until 12:00 noon, Monday, April 16, 2001 and should be addressed to Bradley Raymond, Director, Building, Safety and Engineering Department, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

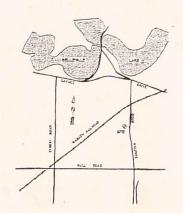
Publish: April 5, 2001

#### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday March 11, 2001 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan 48111.

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel with the tax ID number V-125-83-109-99-0011-701, or more commonly known as 548 Sumpter Road. This property is located on the west side of Sumpter Road approximately one half mile north of Hull Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



The applicant is requesting special use approval to erect a 150 foot monopole wireless communication tower at the rear of the property approximately 900 feet west of Sumpter Road. The subject property is zoned M-1, Light Industrial District. A special use permit approval is required for a wireless communication facility in the M-1 district if the subject site is located within 300 feet of property that is used for or zoned for residential purposes per section 4.24B of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00 p.m. on the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: April 5, 2001 Posted: April 3, 2001

#### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD MARCH 12, 2001 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48714

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Randolph Gear, Mayor Pro Tem

Present:

LeRoy D. Burcroff, William A. Crova, Randolph Gear, Donald Morris, Michael A. Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth

Absent: None. Excused: None.

Administrative Officials in Attendance: William Oakley, Mayor

Linda R. Choate, Clerk Pamela Kersey, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Burcroff to accept the agenda as amended.\*

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None Motion Carried Unanimously.

01-077

2A. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 12, 2001.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. Item deleted at petitioners request.

3B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, April 23, 2001 at 7:15 p.m. Prevailing Eastern Time in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 for the purpose of hearing comments on the proposed creation of an Industrial Development District on 19.06 acres on the southeast corner of Hannan and

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak,

Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously 01-079

4. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Mildred Warwick.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairperson's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously

01-080 5A. Motion by Crova, supported by Wadsworth to authorize Mayor Oakley to sign the State of Michigan Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement for

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak,

Wadsworth. Nays - None.

Motion Carried Unanimously.

5B. Motion by Morris, supported by Prybyla to enter into a professional service contract with Kelly P. Reynolds & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$21,810.00 to perform the Plan Review for the proposed Westin Hotel adjacent to the Midfield

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None Motion Carried Unanimously

01-082

5C. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Prybyla to authorize the purchase of a new microphone and installation of a wireless audio system for the Council Chambers from Video Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$861.95.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously

01-083

5D. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to approve the Storm Sewer System Agreement with the 7-11 Store at 13125 Middlebelt Road for the maintenance of approximately twenty (20) feet of new storm sewer system which ties into the Northline Road right-of-way

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

01-084

5E. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Morris to introduce Budget Amendment 00/01-6

FUND/DEPT.		CURRENT		AMENDED
ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
GENERAL FUND				
Community Developm	ent			
101-291.00-880.000	Community Promotion	5,000	13,625	18,625
The state of the s	lineary buy	want which is	when the line on	REMAINING
FUND BALANCE		AVAILABLE	APPROPRIATE	BALANCE
General Fund	all or base	1,014,513	13,625	1,000,888

To appropriate funds for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 "Link" publications and Mystery Dinner Theater to be performed on April 27, 2001

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Navs - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

5F. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to appoint Cathy Morse to fill a vacancy on the Historical Commission with the term to expire on December 9, 2001.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously.

01-086

5G. Motion by Crova, supported by Burcroff to award Bid 00/01-38 to Bill Wink Chevrolet in the amount of \$26,951.00 for the purchase of a One (1) Ton Dump Truck.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously.

01-087

5H. Motion by Morris, supported by Prybyla to award the low proposal of \$49,121.80 to Mobile Communications to install a new antenna at the new DPW Building including additional equipment that is needed to provide radio communications for the Police, Fire and DPW departments.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth.

Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

6A1a. Motion by Crova, supported by Romak to grant a No Fee Permit to solicit at intersections within the City of Romulus April 6-8, 2001 for their annual Tootsie Roll Drive for the benefit of mentally handicapped children. Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak,

Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

01-089

6A1b. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Morris to grant a No Fee Permit to the Community United Methodist Church for a Rummage Sale to be held March 16-17,

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

01-090

11. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Romak to authorize the payment of Warrant 01-05 in the grand total amount of Two Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Two Hundred and Seventy Two Dollars and Nine Cents (\$270,272.09).

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Gear, Morris, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Abstain - Crova. Motion Carried.

12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Prybyla to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held March 12, 2001.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: April 5, 2001

# Wayne will only settle for the title in 2001

# Wakefield admits it won't be easy task

By TOM MOORADIAN MCN Staff Writer

Wayne Memorial coach Tom Wakefield has moved the bar up a couple of notches. The sophomore varsity baseball coach says that the team's goal this season is to win its first and last Mega-White championship.

"It's going to take a lot of commitment by the individuals and the team, but we feel we can do it," said Wakefield, who is beginning his first full year as head coach.

Four games into the 2000 season, Wakefield was asked to take over the team after the Wayne-

Westland Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Greg Baracy requested and received coach Jim Chronowski's resignation.

A 30-year coaching veteran, Chronowski was asked to step down by the administration after he allegedly used expletives during a meeting with the players.

Wayne and Wakefield opened the year 2001 campaign Tuesday afternoon at home to Livonia Churchill. The Zebras will raise the curtains on the Mega-White season Monday when they travel to Lincoln Park.

Next year, Wakefield and Zebras will not have to concern themselves with the Mega Conference. They will be leaving the con-

Westland John Glenn, in the 12team Western Lakes Activities Conference.

Wayne would like nothing better to bid adieu to the Mega with the championship in their pocket. They could do it, thanks to the return of senior infielder Adam See, pitcher-infielder Ryan Ybarra, third baseman Chris Cox and catcher Dave Cicotte.

The four are excellent prospects and, with luck, are shooins for all-conference considera-

Wakefield had 50 players - the largest in recent years - turn out the first day of practice. In those numbers he had five to six decent

ference and joining natural rival, looking pitchers. Bob Bailey, Adam Zimmerman, Tony Barber, Tommy Collup and Pat Baxter are all working to make the grade in the starting rotation.

Cicotte, a junior, will have Cox as a back-up backstop.

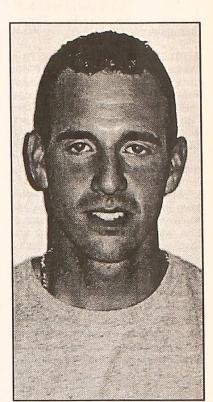
Wakefield also has a couple of other fine prospects. Chris Montoya who is working out at first, and sophomore import from the Dominican Republic, Jose Sabino, Jr., also looks good enough now to break into the starting lineup.

Outfielders Greg Laws, Mark Townsend, Pat Baxter and Tony Barber provide depth, a luxury that Wakefield did not have a year ago. The Wayne coach also has Haresh Sajnani available as a util-

"I definitely think we have an opportunity to win the title with these kids," Wakefield said. "If we don't, I would be the first to be sur-

The Mega-White realignment this year includes Carlson, Redford Union, Ypsilanti, Allen Park, Trenton, Taylor Kennedy, Wyandotte, and Wayne Memorial. Most of the teams presently assigned to the White Division traditionally have fielded strong contenders in the past.

The Mega-White definitely will be a division in the Mega to keep your eyes on.



Tom Wakefield

### An end of era: Moshimer retires

A coaching era has come to

Plymouth-Salem's legendary football coach Tom Moshimer, who has coached football for 42 years, 34 of those at Salem, has decided to retire. After 200 victories, a state championship, several divisional championships, Moshimer said "it's time to call it quits.'

At 9 a.m., March 27, 2001, coach Moshimer officially re-

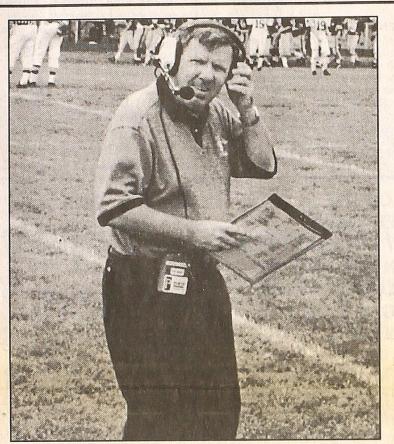
'It's a tough decision, but it is a decision that had to be made,' said Moshimer during a telephone interview Sunday night. "I have had a great time. Met some great people. Coached some outstanding kids, but I do want to spend more time with my family and loved ones, so I have decided to retire."

Tom Moshimer is first and only football coach in the history of Plymouth-Salem High School.

We'll miss him as a friend and as a coaching adversary," said Glenn's Chuck Gordon. "It will be strange looking across the field and not seeing Tom standing there when our two teams meet.

But, I guess there comes a time when we all have to say

During his tenure as coach, Moshimer has produced such



Tom Moshimer

of Wisconsin and later played for the Denver Broncos; Bob Thornbladh, who had an outstanding collegiate career during the late 1960's at the University of Michigan, and a successful pro career with the Kansas City Chiefs, and Tony Vitale, of Central Michigan fame who played for Arizona and Green

Moshimer said he was proud of the kids and equally proud of his coaching staff that "stuck with me through the best and worst of times."

Over the past three decades,

standouts as Ron Egloff, who there were little, if any, changes went on to star at the University in the Moshimer's coaching staff. Bob Cummings has been on staff for 16 years; Chris Hymes, 15 years; Dave Schantz,

> "Yes, I will miss them," Moshimer admits.

In 1985, Tom Moshimer was installed in the Michigan Football Coaches Hall of Fame, and during the 1991-92 year he served as the president of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association.

Gerald Ostoin, principal at Plymouth-Salem, said that coach Moshimer will be missed.

See MOSHIMER, page A-7

### Coach Orsetti wonders where the ball players have gone

By TOM MOORADIAN MCN Staff Writer

When he posted the notice on the school bulletin board about playing baseball this season, Robichaud High coach Richard Orsetti knew that the pickings would be slim.

He didn't realize how slim they were until last week when he came face-to-face with only a dozen of players

'It's the smallest turnout I've had since I got the job as head coach and that was five years ago," said Orsetti. "I am fanning the hallways looking for prospects, and if you know of any I'd appreciate it if they would con-

Fortunately for the Bulldogs they don't have a game scheduled until April 25 when they are on the road at Romulus. They'll face a Romulus lineup that three three-year starters on the mound, and that already would have had seven games under their belts before facing the Bulldogs.

On paper, Romulus looks like a contender in the Mega-Gold. Fordson, the defending champ, and Crestwood, also have enough holdovers to compete for the title. What Robichaud does have is Johnson saw limited action

a year ago, but he does have the potential to be one of the best. -Coach Orsetti

6-8 junior pitcher Marcus Johnson. But Johnson, again, is hurting. He isn't fully recovered from a wrist injury suffered during the football season.

'Johnson saw limited action a year ago, but he does have the potential to be one of the best," said Orsetti

But Johnson's supporting cast is filled with freshmen - eight of them. The only other player back with any kind of experience is Bradford Brown, a junior outfielder who played in four games a ear ago in a 5-13 season.

"We definitely have our work cut out for us this year," Orsetti

The cadre of freshmen that the Robichaud coach is looking at are: Melvin Ballard, Jr., a catchershortsop; Michael Stewart, first base and short; Daniel Gross, third base; Maurice Love, a catcher who can play short or first if called upon; Antoine Dupree, infielder and outfielder Frank Swis-

Two brothers - Robert and Gordon Rizor - are being groomed as outfielders. Gordon is a senior. A third outfielder, Willie Wimberly, a senior, is an excellent hitter.

Orsetti said the inclement weather has restricted his team's practice to indoors.

"We've been outside maybe three times, but our last two practices were excellent ones. They have convinced me that they have talent, the problem is we're young and we're going to take our

In the meantime, Romulus heads for Ypsilanti on Friday to open the 2000 Mega Conference season against the Braves, and coach Keith Brothers has a doubleheader scheduled for Monday against the Cardinals of Melvindale. Then, on Wednesday, Brothers and the Eagles will welcome back Jerome Orr to the Mega-

Orr (See related story) was appointed to replace Johnny Graham as head coach at Inkster. He returns to the Vikings after a three-year hiatus.

### Wayne sets deadline for softball entries

Wayne Parks and Recreation officials announced this week they are continuing to register players for the upcoming softball and baseball seasons.

Players may register from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. at the Wayne Community Center, Annapolis and Howe Roads.

There is a \$40 per player regis-

tration fee; the non-resident's fee

For more information, please contact the parks and recreation department at 734-721-7400.

### Ex-baseball coach says he deserved better from district Graham says he's disappointed contract wasn't renewed By TOM MOORADIAN

MCN Staff Writer

When you pour your heart and soul into your work, you believe that you should be given an opportunity to complete the job you were hired to do.

But, Johnny Graham wasn't. In fact, Graham's contract as

varsity baseball coach at Inkster High was not renewed this year. He was abruptly dismissed from his love of coaching, and he's frus-"First, let me make it clear that

I respect the decision by the ad-

ministration not to rehire me," said Graham, during a personal interview. "I just want it to be known that I put in a lot of work hard work - with these kids and I believe that I deserved better than what I got.

"I am disappointed, and this isn't a sour grapes kind of statement because when a person, whoever he or she is, does their job, and there is no reason to fire him, then he shouldn't be fired.'

Graham said that he was ex-

tended an opportunity to work with the incoming coach, Jerome Orr, but he turned down the offer.

Graham said that the baseball program at Inkster High School was in shambles when he took over two years ago. The varsity squad lacked the numbers to put a complete team on the field. He said that because of other commitments, "there were only six to seven players showing up for practice and subsequently games had to be forfeited or canceled.

"I put in a lot of hard work last year to get the program up and running," Graham added. "I was asked to put a squad on the ball field for six games more than what they did the two previous sea-

Graham pointed out that Inkster High has a rich history of producing excellent ball players. Some of Inkster's sons, such as Leon Wagner, went on to earn recognition as professional ball players. Wagner played for the

Others notables such as Preston James returned to Inkster High to coach and teach, while others played semi-pro or pro ball, ball players such as Richard Baily, Pete Coleman, Oliver Gaston, Mark Ballard, Cyrus Timmons and Ron Ford who had remarkable careers.

Graham said that though there are "no hard feelings between the incoming coach," he had to turn down the offer to work with him.

"I just didn't feel comfortable in that kind of situation," Graham ex-

Dave Mann, who took over as Inkster High's athletic director in September, was not available at press time for comment. But one school official said that it wasn't unusual for a new administration to want to bring in "new blood" to revive what has been of late a very low-achieving program.

### Vikings, turn to All-American sprinter to revive program

### **Thomas** named coach

By TOM MOORADIAN MCN Staff Writer

Inkster High's young and dynamic athletic director Dave Mann has turned to a former All-American sprinter to rebuild the Vikings' track program.

Mann announced that Eugene Thomas, a former Eastern Michigan University track star, has been named as the head coach for both the boys' and girls' track teams.

Thomas, who was an All-American sprinter that captured NCAA as well as NAIA honors while at EMU during the late 1960 and early 1970's, formerly coached at Bishop Borgess in Dearborn Heights. He was raised in Ohio and completed his high school education before attending EMU in

Ypsilanti. We have a lot of work to do here," said Thomas, who received his coaching baptismal at the EMU Relays last week. 'We don't have many athletes out this season, and when you don't have depth, you have prob-

Thomas said that "there is definitely a lot of talent here. My challenge will be motivate these youngsters to do the best they are capable of. The kids who have come out are really working hard. They are dedicated."

At the EMU Relays, Thomas managed to put together a lineup for the 800-meter relay which finished eighth.

In the event, Cassandra Holdshaw, Brittany Evans, Tiffany Smith and Dominique Whitner

Whitner, a sophomore, is a premier sprinter who a year ago finished fourth in the state in the 400-meter event. She was clocked in 1:00.4 and earned All-State recognition for her performance.

Thomas says that the team is young and strong and are looking forward to their Mega-Gold Division opener against Dearborn Heights Annapolis. The Vikings will entertain Annapolis and Ecorse in a triangular meet

scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. on April 10.

Thomas also has four goodlooking prospects in the hurdles. They are Tiffany Collins (sophomore), Easley, a freshman who is being groomed as a sprinter, Sanika Langston, a junior who is also a sprinter, and

freshman Evelyn Health. Sophomore Deedee Murphy will compete in the shot put and the discus, while Sophie Wilks, a freshman, also is working out in the shot put and discus

Others who coach Thomas will rely upon are Christina Henderson (shot put, discus), Dominque Graves (hurdler), and Latonya Redd (sprinter).

Thomas has a capable and experienced assistant coach in Krissy Horton.

The Vikings boys' team was represented by seven athletes at the EMU Relays. Forming the nucleus of the team are Marlon Garnes (freshman, middle distances), Allen Jones, (junior, middle distances), Gregory Nelson (freshman, sprinter), Anthony Street (400-meters, middle distances), Brandon Todd (sprinter), and DeJuan Allen (long and high jump).

# Orr returns to his 'field of dreams'

His 3-year baseball coaching hiatus ends at Inkster High

By TOM MOORADIAN MCN Staff Writer

Coach Jerome Orr last week returned to his "field of dreams" after a long and frustrating threeyear absence from coaching.

Orr was picked to replace Johnny Graham as the head baseball coach at Inkster High School.

"I am glad to be back and eager for the upcoming challenges," said Orr, who coached the 1997

Orr had a total of 18 players turn out for practice the first day. In that small cadre of hopefuls are five returning letter winners who played for a team that finished below the .500 average mark a year ago.

And this season the Vikings will see an improved Mega-Gold Division standing in their path. Fordson, the defending Mega-Gold champ, and Crestwood, always a potential title threat, are joined by a seasoned Romulus team as the coaches' picks to lead the chase for the title.

That leaves Highland Park, River Rouge, Robichaud and Inkster to fight it out in the middle of the pack.

But Orr, who never concedes anything to anyone, says that his ball club could surprise a lot of people this year.

We have some good kids who can be tough if we can get over the early rough spots. I know it isn't going to be easy - nothing real-

The five returning letter winners include a trio of pitchers -Brandon Dawson, a sophomore righthander, and senior Kentrail Flicking, who is coming off of a successful basketball season. Both will take up positions in the infield when they are not trying

to strike out opponents.

Also back in the Viking lineup are leftfielder Keith Hicks and first-baseman Roosevelt Sledge, who also will see his share of mound duties. Marcus Warren, a rightfielder who can handle third, is a solid performer at the plate. The senior is the only other returning letterman.

Orr is also looking at Reggie Smith, a freshman and southpaw, to also throw this season, and nephew, Jason Orr, a sophomore is working to break into the pitching rotation.

Freshman righthander Marcus

Peterson is the last of the pitching candidates.

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> Orr has a solid infield with Mike Turner at first; Jerome Orr at second, and Flicking at short Third base is up for grabs between Reggie Smith and Marcus Warren.

Orr, who isn't scheduled to play his opener until the 11th at Romulus, said he hopes to get in a couple of scrimmages before opening day.

He'll need it - Romulus is reported to be stocked with experience this season.

#### Moshimer continued from page A-6

"We've had one great run." Ostoin said. "We are losing a head coach with 42 years of experience, 34 of them at Plymouth Salem High School. He has been our only head coach.

"And, let me add that coach Moshimer is, and has been, an excellent role model with great integrity. He is loyal and follows the chain of command. He has won numerous awards, and a state championship who was the Coach of the Year in Class A.

"But, more importantly, during the last 42 years, he has made a positive impact on thousands of young men," Ostoin stressed.

### Girls softball, golf coaches, attention

Tom Mooradian at 734-729-4000.

By TOM MOORADIAN MCN Staff Writer

If you're a girls' high school softball, golf or track coach and want to see your team's achievements in the local newspaper, then pick up the phone and contact the Michigan Community Newspapers' sports desk.

For further information, please contact MCN Staff Writer

The MCN sports staff is seeking the results of local teams, specifically those in its circulation area, namely, Belleville, Romulus,

Wayne Memorial, Westland John Glenn, Plymouth-Canton, Plymouth-Salem, Inkster and Dearborn Heights Robichaud.

For further information, please contact MCN Staff Writer Tom Mooradian at 734-729-4000. Coaches may also "fax" results to the desk. The MCN number is 734-729-6088.

MCN also wants to thank athletic directors and/or their secretaries for expeditiously sending their spring sports schedules.

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### Softball deadline Friday

Softball managers or team representatives have until 5 p.m. Friday, April 6, to register their teams for the Romulus Parks and Recreation's summer leagues.

Recreation officials announced that they are accepting registration for the following leagues: Class B and Class C (Red Division); C and D (White Division); and Class D and below (Blue Divi-

### Henn wins opening

tourney

It was a nice way to start the

Wayne Memorial's Amber Henn, competing against some of the finest in the field, won the Dearborn High Girls' Invitational Golf Tournament on Friday.

Staged at Warren Valley Golf Course in Dearborn Heights, tors from Livonia Stevenson by one stroke to emerge as the medalist from the field.

Wayne also received excellent performances from Kayla Slezak, LeeAnn Rutowski, Lindsay Fallow and Christina Goumans.

There were 90 girls who competed in the first major tournament of the 2001 high school sea-

Coach Carolyn Newton's Zebras hosted Southgate on Tuesday for their first Mega Conference dual match of the season, and will travel to Monroe today (Thursday) to test the Trojans.

Officials also stress that they plan to field a Women's Division with eight teams playing 14

Team managers who need more information are urged to contact the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department at 734-942-6852.

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NOTICE OF FILING DEADLINE

**BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITIONS** 

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Regular School Election of the School District of the City of Inkster, Wayne County, Michigan, will be held

Two (2) positions on the Inkster Board of Education will be filled at the election. Each position is a four (4) years term ending June 30,

A candidate who wishes to be on the ballot must file a Nominating

Petition and an Affidavit of Identity. The last day of filing a

Nominating Petition and an Affidavit of Identity will be 4:00

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 2001 Petitions and affidavit forms can be obtained at the offices of the

Inkster Board of Education located at 29115 Carlysle Avenue.

Inkster, Michigan. Office hours are from 9:00 o'clock in the morn-

ing through 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon, Monday through Friday.

Any person filing an Affidavit of Identity must submit proof of citi-

Birth Certificate, or

Naturalization Papers, or

U.S. Passport

Any person who has changed his/her name according to Michigan

law less than twelve (12) years before filing for office; or changed

his/her name, through naturalization less than ten (10) years before

filing for office must also file an Affidavit of Name Change along

Sandra Motley Cook

Board Of Education

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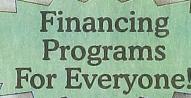


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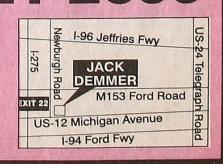
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